

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 OMB-01

ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /183 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0083

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, PFOR, AORG, CG

SUBJ: ILO - OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF MINISTER BINTU' A TSHIABOLA

1. MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES BINTU' A TSHIABOLA SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE 58 TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, WHICH MET IN GENEVA FROM JUNE 6 TO JUNE 27, 1973.
2. HE PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST, MOST EFFECTIVE PRESIDENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE WITHIN MEMORY. HIS DECISIONS ON POINTS OF PROCEDURE AND POINTS OF ORDER WERE CLEAR AND FIRM, AND ONCE HE HAD DECIDED ON A MATTER, NO AMOUNT OF CONTESTATION COULD MAKE HIM BACK DOWN.
3. ONE NOTEWORTHY INCIDENT INVOLVED A POLITICAL ATTACK THAT THE CUBAN WORKER DELEGATE MADE ON THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING PUERTO RICO. THE US DELEGATE MADE A REPLY TO THE ATTACK FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE CUBAN SPEECH. THE CUBANS THEN WISHED TO REPLY TO THE US REPLY, BUT BINTU SIMPLY SAID THAT THIS COULD LEAD TO ENDLESS EXCHANGES. HE WAS IN OFFICE TO PRESERVE ORDER, AND REPLIES TO REPLIES WOULD LEAD TO DISORDER, SO HE WOULD NOT PERMIT A FURTHER EXCHANGE. THE CUBANS MADE

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A PRIVATE CALL ON HIM TRYING TO SOFTEN HIS POSITION, AND THEN MADE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO GET THE FLOOR DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. BEFORE GIVING THE CUBAN THE FLOOR TO MAKE A POINT OF ORDER, BINTU LAID DOWN THE LAW IN VIGOROUS TERMS FOR NEARLY TEN MINUTES, LET THE CUBAN SPEAK, AND THEN EXPOUNDED HIS INTERPRETATION OF STANDING ORDERS FOR ANOTHER TEN MINUTES. THE CUBAN EVENTUALLY BACKED DOWN AND GAVE UP.

4. IN A MEMORABLE SCRAP ON THE FLOOR OF THE PLENARY SESSION OVER AN ANTI- ISRAELI RESOLUTION, BINTU MAINTAINED CONTROL UNDER EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. THE ARAB SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION RESORTED TO SHOUTING, HAMMERING ON DESKS, RAISING FALSE POINTS OF ORDER, ATTEMPTING TO TAKE THE ROSTRUM WITHOUT PERMISSION, AND FINALLY WALKED OUT IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEAMROLLER THE PLENARY INTO ADOPTING THE RESOLUTION. THIS WAS EXCEPTIONALLY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR BINTU, SINCE MANY BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES INITIALLY SUPPORTED THE ARABS, AND HE, IN EFFECT, WAS FORCED TO RULE AGAINST SOME OF HIS FELLOW AFRICANS. HE HELD HIS GROUND, HOWEVER, AND LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO WHO WAS IN CONTROL OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE CONFERENCE, HE RECEIVED TWO ENTHUSIASTIC OVATIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

6. BINTU WAS A COURAGEOUS, INTELLIGENT PRESIDENT, AND THE US DELEGATION TO THE 58 TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN ORDER, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EMBASSY'S CHOOSING FOR KINSHASA TO COMPLIMENT HIM ON HIS PERFORMANCE.
BASSIN

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